United Nations A/S-23/AC.1/L.1/Add.42

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
21 June 2000

Original: English

Twenty-third special session
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action

Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mónica **Martínez** (Ecuador)

Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 48, 48 *bis*, 107 (g) *ter*, 107 (i) and 121 of the proposed outcome document of the twenty-third special session (A/S-23/2/Add.2 (Part IV) and Corr.1) at its _____ meeting, on 9 June 2000.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 48 was deleted;

(b) Paragraph 48 *bis* was amended to read:

"Efforts should continue to be made for the promotion of respect for cultural diversity and dialogue among and within civilizations in a manner that contributes to the implementation of the Platform for Action, that aims at the empowerment of women and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and that ensures that gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women are not undermined";

(c) Paragraph 107 (g) *ter* was amended to read:

"Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying

00-49811 (E) 290600

and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition is the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.

"Bearing in mind the above definition, reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents. These rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents. In the exercise of this right, they should take into account the needs of their living and future children and their responsibilities towards the community. The promotion of the responsible exercise of these rights for all people should be the fundamental basis for government- and community-supported policies and programmes in the area of reproductive health, including family planning. As part of their commitment, full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality. Reproductive health eludes many of the world's people because of such factors as inadequate levels of knowledge about human sexuality and inappropriate or poor-quality reproductive health information and services; the prevalence of high-risk sexual behaviour; discriminatory social practices; negative attitudes towards women and girls; and the limited power many women and girls have over their sexual and reproductive lives. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable because of their lack of information and access to relevant services in most countries. Older women and men have distinct reproductive and sexual health issues which are often inadequately addressed.

"The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences."

(d) Paragraph 107 (i) was amended to read:

"In the light of paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states:

> 'In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion[1] as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process. In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions',

consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions";

(e) Paragraph 121 was deleted.

---

[1] Unsafe abortion is defined as a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards or both (based on World Health Organization, *The Prevention and Management of Unsafe Abortion*, Report of a Technical Working Group, Geneva, April 1992 (WHO/MSM/92.5)).